

## **Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes Monday January 2, 2007**

Present: Janice O'Brien, Bill and Noreen Johnson, Jack Karcz, Jean Ragonese, and Tina Sturdivant

The meeting began at 7:04 PM

Mrs. O'Brien verified that all members received the meeting minutes from the last two meetings.

A motion to accept meeting minutes from November 13, 2006 and December 5, 2006 was made by Bill Johnson, and seconded by Noreen Johnson.

The Landowner workshop will be held on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1 PM at the Fremont Library. It is not necessary for all Open Space members to be in attendance.

Mrs. O'Brien stated that she had received correspondence from Amanda Stone and Frank Mitchell from NROC concerning the structure and content of the Landowner Workshop.

They have forwarded a preliminary agenda:

- Meet and greet (refreshments, attendees mingle, look at maps)
- Introduction given by Mrs. O'Brien
- Frank Mitchell presents Introduction to Land Conservation Options
- Chuck Lawrence (attendance status unknown at time of OSC meeting)
- Discussion and questions
- Announcement of follow up meeting time and date.
- Hand out copies of the "Conserving Your Land" book for any interested landowners.

Mrs. Sturdivant obtained copies of the Wildlife Action Plan maps. Dept of Fish and Game was able to focus in maps on town of Fremont. Mrs. O'Brien will see if the maps can be further enlarged and laminated for workshop. Mrs. O'Brien suggested taking some of the NRI maps to hang up at the meeting as well.

Mrs. Sturdivant asked about recording part of the landowner workshop on video in a manner that would not identify any of the people in attendance. There was a discussion concerning this suggestion and most felt strongly that it would be ok to video Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Lawrence's portion of the meeting IF all the people present were comfortable with it. The video would be kept for informational purposes (land owners showing interest in conservation easements in the future) A suggestion was made to have this option further discussed at the next Conservation Commission meeting. Mrs. O'Brien stated she would contact Amanda Stone and Frank Mitchell for their recommendation.

Mrs. O'Brien reported that 35 invitations were sent out last week. Mr. Jones received a call from one land owner that received an invitation. Reminder postcards will be to be sent out next week. The library all booked for the workshop. Information detailing the Landowner Workshop was published in the town newsletter. Mrs. O'Brien asked if the workshop information should be published in local newspapers. The

consensus was that the workshop was by invitation, targeting specific landowners and that was not necessary.

Mrs. Johnson suggested that Mrs. Ragonese coordinate the refreshments to be served during the landowner workshop. There was a brief discussion of what types of food to serve. The consensus was to serve fruit platters, cheese and crackers, pies, coffee, tea and cold drinks.

Mrs. Johnson asked about what was up coming in the next few months. She asked if there were any thought to composing a summary of events/progresses made by the Open Space Committee over that past year to update the public of Fremont at the March Town Meeting.

There committee members were updated about a parcel of land in town whose owner has shown interest in preserving their land. At the next meeting this property will be assessed through the Open Space Survey Criteria.

There is a hearing on Thursday January 11, 2007 at 8PM to discuss the proposed Town Forest Ordinance. The hearing will take place in the land use room of town hall. If adopted the Glen Oaks Conservation Area and the Town Forest would have established permitted and restricted uses/activities. It would give the Police department power to patrol town properties and provide penalty for infractions to the ordinance.

Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Karcz went to the Board of Selectmen in December to report ATV traffic and other automobiles found in Glen Oaks (a prohibited use according to easement). At that time the decision was made to erect signs that read "No Wheeled Vehicles". This sign was posted at the Andreski Drive entrance to the Glen Oaks property. It was recently discovered that this sign had been removed and thrown into the woods, there has been significant wheeled vehicle traffic and dredging of some the wetlands. There was a discussion about placing additional signs up (No ATV, Prime wetland) on other access areas into Glen Oaks and gating the Andreski Drive portion. Mrs. O'Brien reported that she had contacted Dept of Resource and Economic Development (DRED), and left message, asking for information about cost, size, ordering, and delivery time frame for placing a gate.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday February 6, 2007 at 7PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Noreen Johnson, and seconded by Bill Johnson  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Sturdivant